

You Do Make a Difference!

The **DNR Fire Department Advisory Council** is a group of people from Wisconsin's fire service community appointed by the DNR to offer grassroots guidance to the Division of Forestry on the direction and structure of its forest fire protection organization, operations, and grant programs. The Co-Chair of the Council is the DNR Cooperative Forest Fire Specialist who is also a member of a volunteer fire department. As council members they:

- Advise the Department on funding issues for the grant programs.
- Recommend ranking and scoring guidelines for Department fire suppression grants.
- Meet with appropriate legislative committees about funding issues for about funding issues for fire suppression grant programs:
- Evaluate the effectiveness of DNR fire suppression grant programs by working with region and bureau staff.
- Work with DNR staff to develop policy and guidance for the DNR fire suppression grant programs.

You can make a difference by voicing your ideas and concerns to:

DNR Fire Department Advisory Council Liaison & Co-Chair

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Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) Grants



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What is the Volunteer Fire Assistance grant program?

The Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) grant program was authorized in the federal Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978. (This grant program was known formerly both as Title IV and Rural Community Fire Protection Grants.)

The VFA program is a competitive 50/50 cost share program. This means that the grantee must use its own resources to fund the entire cost of the project. Upon project completion and Department approval, the grantee requests reimbursement for 50 percent of the total eligible project costs up to the amount of the grant award.

Who can apply?

County fire associations in the state of Wisconsin can apply for VFA grants. **Only one application will be accepted per county.** Priority will be given to county fire associations in the cooperative protection areas of the state.

Fire Departments that are members of a county fire association need to work together to determine what project(s) they want funded with grant dollars, since an individual fire department is not eligible to apply. Individual fire departments cannot receive money from more than one county fire association VFA grant.

What can a county fire association buy with VFA grant funds?

The VFA program provides grant funding for the purchase of the following categories of equipment:

- Personal protective equipment – structural and wildland
- Communication equipment
- Prevention projects
- Dry hydrants
- Equipment
- Training
- Organization

Maximum grant award: \$10,000 – To receive the maximum grant award, a project must have at least \$20,000 in eligible project costs.

Minimum grant award: \$1,500 – To receive the minimum grant award, a project must have at least \$3,000 in eligible project costs.

What is the application deadline?

Applications are mailed to county fire associations statewide in April.

June 1 is the postmark deadline date for returning a VFA application. The VFA grant application packet is also available on the DNR website:
dnr.wi.gov/org/caer/cfa/lr/vfa/grants.html

If a county fire association does not receive a grant application or would like more information, contact:

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